

Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist

Monthly report for February, 2011

ANCHORAGE

University of Washington DENTEX Clinic

In February, Alaska DHAT continued focusing on the reorganization of the training calendar: the next cohort will start class in Fall of 2011.

With no first-year students on-site in Anchorage at this time, Anchorage staff are reviewing curriculum and focusing on regular activities of organizational development.

In February, staff reflected on the last four years as we wrote our report narrative for WK Kellogg Foundation. We realized that in spite of some extreme setbacks, Alaska DHAT has accomplished its objectives, and then some: measuring the combined population of the villages currently served by DHATs, over 35,000 more people in rural Alaska now have access to oral healthcare. DHATs are dedicated oral healthcare providers, working in areas where there has been itinerant dental care for decades: Togiak, Shishmaref, Savoonga, Shungnak, Klawock, Yakutat, Point Hope, to name just a few of 25 communities. This fact is encouraging as we prepare for the next class, and we look forward to increasing those numbers in the coming years.

Project Director Dr. Mary Williard continues to travel to represent the Alaska DHAT to groups in the Lower 48. We are underlining those efforts with increased online presence and networking.

In early February, DHAT said farewell to our Program Manager, Mary Anaruk, who retired and headed south to her home state of Oregon. This was Mary's second retirement, following a career as a nurse and healthcare administrator in rural Alaska. As the chair of the inaugural CHAP certification board, and former director of the Yukon-Kuskokwim region's Community Health Aide Program, Mary's knowledge and experience was instrumental in the successful launch of DHAT training. She now looks forward to more time with her grandchildren. Mary would love to hear your news, and can be reached at: shamaran1@yahoo.com.

Thank you, Mary, for your years of service!

If you would like to contribute to DHAT Training, visit the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation website:

<http://inspiringgoodhealth.org>

for regularly updated DHAT news follow ANTHCsmile on **Twitter** and **facebook**.

www.anthc.org/chs/chap/dhs



from l to r: students Trisha Patton, Kate Kohl, and Jana Schuerch with Dr. Robert Allen at Bethel HeadStart

BETHEL

Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic

The DHAT students had 102 patient encounters during the month of February and provided a variety of general dental services for their patients.

Dr. Robert Allen instructed the students on the atraumatic removal of primary and permanent teeth.

The students are working together on a joint Community Project this year. They are developing an athletic mouthguard program, which includes completing a needs assessment, setting objectives, implementation, and an overall program evaluation. This project will be ongoing throughout the year.

In addition to the mouthguard program, the students will continue to work with the Head Start class. On Tuesday, February 15th, the students, Dr. Allen and Kathy Balasko went to the Head Start to complete oral exams and provide preventive services.

Dr. Louis Fiset from the University of Washington completed his first site visit for the year, from February 22 to 25. Dr. Fiset met with each of the students one-on-one to discuss their progress. He also conducted a brainstorming session with the entire class to come up with possible topics for dental case presentations. The case presentations will be given in December 2011, during graduation week.